

Application No. 10/646,137
Docket No. 0220-009

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 and 7-20 are pending in the application - claims 1, 15 and 20 are in independent form. Claims 1-4, 7-10, 15 and 20 have been amended and claim 6 has been canceled by the foregoing amendment.

Claims 1-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, 2nd paragraph as being indefinite and language of claims of 1, 4, 8, 15 and 20 have cited in particular. It is believed that these rejections have been overcome by the foregoing amendment to the claims and Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

Claims 1-4, 6-11 and 14-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 1,721,516 ("Jacobs"). Claims 5 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Jacobs in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,840,091 ("Conlon") and claim 13 stands rejected over Jacobs in view of U.S. Patent No. 852,862 ("Roth"). Applicants request traversal of these rejections and allowance of the pending claims in view of the following remarks.

Applicants' invention is directed to support methods and devices for securing, for example, a technician to a pole such as a telephone pole. As recited in claim 1 for example, a support device comprises a belt portion having a first end and a second end; a locking member for attaching the first end and the second end to form a loop; a ring member for integrating the belt portion with a safety strap; and at least one connection member for mating with a corresponding connection member of the safety strap. The loop is adapted to extend around an

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elevated portion of a pole, the belt portion is adapted to secure the safety strap to the pole, and the safety strap is adapted to attach to a body belt of a technician.

Jacobs discloses, as recited in the Office Action, a support device assembly including an adjustable belt portion 15, locking member 16-18, sliding ring members 21, body belt 5, connection member 6, 11 and an adjustable safety strap 10.

Connection member 6 of Jacobs is included or attached to body belt 5 and connection member 11 is attached to safety strap 10 (Fig. 2 of Jacobs). Therefore, the connection members of Jacobs secure the body belt to the safety strap.

In contrast to Jacobs, connection members 15 and 32 of Applicants' invention are used to secure safety strap 30 to support device 10 and not to body belt 20 (See Specification, ¶ 34 and Figures 1 and 2). As recited in claim 1, the support device of Applicants' invention comprises, *inter alia*, at least one connection member for mating with a corresponding connection member of the safety strap.

Therefore, Applicants' invention, as recited in amended independent claims 1, 15 and 20 is not anticipated by Jacobs. Since Jacobs fails to disclose aspects of Applicants' invention as claimed, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1, 15, and 20 are allowable. The remaining claims, all depending on one of these independent claims, are also allowable.


The deficiencies of Jacobs, as highlighted above, are not overcome by Conlon or Roth

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It is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner have any questions with respect to expediting the prosecution of this application, he is urged to contact the undersigned at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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